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FROM: Guatemala City

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 101, July 20, 4 p.m.

Control: 8704
Rec'd: July 20, 1954
9:36 p.m.

INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS
JUL 21 1954
tel sent, file

SENT DEPARTMENT 101, REPEATED SAN JOSE 3, MANAGUA 3

Castillo Armas indicated last night he intended to exile Colonel Jose Angel Sanchez, Minister of Defense under Arbenz, and several other key officers who were not (repeat not) personally compromised with communism but identified with Arbenz. He felt that if he "left them in the streets" here they might be trouble makers and preferred to have them out of country.

Officers for whom Costa Rican visas requested (San Jose 37 July 19) appear to fall in this category:

Colonel Barzallana was commander First Infantry Regiment (Guardia de Honor) in Guatemala City; Colonel Bolanos, Deputy Chief of Staff, and Colonel Ordonez, Commander of Second Civil Zone at Zacapa. Fuentes Giron was on inactive list while serving as PAR Deputy and Fourth Secretary of Congress.

None of officers have any known propensity for communism and none have lent themselves to Communist front "mass" and peace organizations. Embassy would, if consulted, have advised Castillo to send them to harmless military attache jobs to prevent their becoming focal points of discontent but believes in circumstances Castillo should be aided in removing them to other countries.

Press reports that in addition to foregoing, Colonel Juan Jose Serra, former Deputy Defense Minister, Major Antonio Barrutia, former Deputy, and Lt. Colonel Carlos Paz Tejada, ex-Communications Minister, are also scheduled to go to Costa Rica. First two have no (repeat no) pro-Communist records but Paz Tejada attended World Peace Council meeting in Bucharest last year and has been active in local "peace" movement.

Embassy San Jose will doubtless be in better position to judge effect presence of such "Arbencista" officers in Costa Rica may have on tensions in area.

PEURIFOY

FBH/6

NOTE: Mr. Fisher (MID) notified 7/20/54, 10 p.m. EMB (CWO)

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